PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXXXIII.

SHIPPING—THE LINCH-PIN OF VICTORY.

While no one will challenge the wisdom of sending an expeditionary force to French North Africa last November, no one will suggest that in magnitude, such an operation is to be compared with a full-scale offensive in Western Europe. Yet this "limited" operation required the use of 500 merchant vessels and 350 warships for the initial landings, and in the first two months of operation 7,600,000 tons of shipping (971 merchant ships) were escorted by the Royal Navy to Western Mediterranean ports. About three million tons of shipping is continually engaged in supplying our forces in the Middle East *via* the Cape route; without this tonnage, the Eighth Army would not now be in Cyrenaica, much less Tripolitania.

IMMENSE DISTANCES.

These two examples are sufficient to show that overseas expeditions require the backing of large merchant fleets. The greater the distance between supply base and battle-front, the larger is the number of ships required to transport an equivalent volume of supplies. Consider a few of the distances that have to be traversed between two of the principal supply bases, North America and the British Isles, and the battle-fronts :

From U. S. A. to—

London	4,000 miles
Moscow (*via* Basra) ...	14,000 miles
Chungking	13,000 miles
Calcutta	12,000 miles
Sydney	7,000 miles
Cairo	12,000 miles

Average: 10,300 miles.

From Britain to—

Moscow (*via* Arctic) ...	4,000 miles	Average : 10,600 miles.
Chungking	13,000 miles	
Calcutta	12,000 miles	
Sydney	12,000 miles	
Cairo	12,000 miles	

Ships in convoy take about six weeks to cover a distance of 10,000 miles, at least double that time to deliver their freight and return to their home port. So, if 100 ships are available to transport 1,000,000 tons of supplies from England to India, and each ship can carry 5,000 tons of cargo, the 100 ships will be unable to undertake any other task for at least six months. If 200 ships are available, the job can be done in half the time. This may seem extremely elementary, but it is an aspect of the war which is easily overlooked: the time-and-tonnage factor. To have enough ships to transport enough supplies within a strictly limited period is to hold the key to victory. A Japanese broadcaster had the right idea when, on July 20, 1942, he declared: "It is not too much to say that the present war is a war of shipping space. The side which loses its power of transportation will eventually lose the war."

Hitler has always recognised the need for quick and total victory, by asserting the actual resources on his side before the superior potential forces of his enemies could materialise. He brought Italy into the war for that reason in 1940. In 1941 he decided to deal with Russia before the power of Britain (with the aid of a non-belligerent America) could be fully mobilised. Russian strength far exceeded his calculations, and the flood of American aid across the Atlantic was flowing too fast for his liking. Japan's entry held out the hope of diverting American resources from the European theatre. Still Russia holds out, and an Anglo-American offensive in Europe is now imminent. The prospect of total victory has dwindled, perhaps it is no longer considered in Berlin. It is evident that in 1943 Hitler intends to stake everything on his U-boats. He will try to sink Allied ships so fast that the opening date of the European offensive will have to be postponed. If it can be postponed indefinitely he will be in a position to make a stalemate peace-offer. That no such offer would be accepted does not mean that it would not be made.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

German U-boats are now operating in "echelons of packs" according to Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty. They are supplied and repaired on the high seas by "U-tankers", according to Berlin Radio. They are travelling on the surface at a speed of 20 knots in order to get into good positions for attack, according to Lieut.-Com. Woodroffe, the B. B. C.'s naval commentator. And, according to *Reuter's* naval correspondent, there are 150 U-boats (less than a third of the whole fleet) always operating in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and North Sea, and U-boats are being built at the rate of 15 to 20 a month. *A British Official Wireless* message, referring to recent R. A. F. bombing attacks on Lorient, says this port is the main U-boat base in

France and its workshops are large enough to carry out major repairs; the Germans have built two heavily concreted pens to house 40 U-boats, and are now constructing a third capable of taking another ten. According to the U. S. War Secretary, Mr. Stimson, the over-all picture of the war is decidedly bright for the Allies—"with the exception of the sinkings by U-boats". The only conclusion that can be drawn from all these comments is that Germany is banking on a stalemate, and U-boat warfare is the instrument by which Hitler hopes to avert total defeat.

Air patrols from the British Isles have been intensified to such an extent that, in the words of Britain's Air Minister, Sir Archibald Sinclair, "no U-boat dares show itself on the surface within 300 miles". Coastal Command aircraft flew 1,250,000 miles—a total of 8,000 flying hours—to ensure the safe passage of the convoys which carried our expeditionary force to French North Africa last November. Fighters catapulted from merchant ships have beaten down the menace of the Focke-Wulf Kurier. The danger from surface craft has been largely eliminated by the activity of the British Home Fleet. (It is significant that 80 per cent of the credit for successes scored against Allied merchant shipping in 1942 was given by Berlin to the submarines). The success of Allied air patrols has driven the U-boats further afield and automatically placed a heavier burden on the Allied navies. Both Britain and the United States are devoting a large part of their naval construction programmes to anti-submarine craft—destroyers, corvettes and sloops.

NEW BUILDING.

The past year has seen a tremendous increase in the output of merchant shipping from American yards. In the month of September 1941 America built nine ships (86, 185 deadweight tons); in September 1942 she built 93 ships (1,009,800 deadweight tons). In March 1942 America was completing new ships at the rate of one a day; nine months later she was completing them at the rate of four a day and by May 1943 the rate should be five a day—1,825 new ships in a year (the Germans claim only 1,450 Allied ships sunk in the whole of 1942). America is now building ships five times as fast as she was a year ago; but, despite increased U-boat activity, Allied sinkings are not five times as big now as they were a year ago. (Even the Berlin Radio has only doubled or trebled its claims of a year ago). There is little doubt that the Allies can outbuild the sinkings. What is agitating the minds of newspaper leader-writers in London and Washington is the realisation that, while sinkings cannot annihilate the Allied Merchant Fleet, they can restrict its carrying capacity to a serious extent. As the *New York Herald-Tribune* observes: "Submarine defence is just about holding the enemy at the present time. It is not yet fighting a winning battle".

We are "just about holding the enemy". We have sufficient control of the U-boats to maintain our present commitments—aid to Russia, supplies to North Africa, the Middle East, India, China and Australia. Field Marshal

Wavell said recently that the requirements of the North African campaign were not adversely affecting the supply of the forces in India. This is an indication that we are holding the enemy. But we are anxious to increase our control of the U-boats to such an extent that a surplus of shipping space will be made available for extensive operations in new areas. Hitler is even more anxious that we shall not accumulate that surplus in time to win a total victory. That is the crux of the present situation.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

6—2—43 to 12—2—43.

Russia is jubilant, and making holiday because army for army, General for General she has out-fought and out-manoeuvred the invader and put him to rout.

During the week Russian forces captured MINSKAYA and YEISK (on the sea of AZOV); KAMSKAYA (near TIKHORETSK); KUPYANSK, SCHIGRY and KURSK on the VORONEJ front; BATAISK, LISICHANSK, BARVENKOVO, BALAKLAYA, KRAMAPSKAYA in the UKRAINE; and FATEZH, KOROCHA and BYELGOROD near KHARKOV. In a matter of 80 days the old 1,000 mile curving battle front has been reduced to 400 miles. KUBAN is in the bag. The German Army here has been split in two by a Russian wedge, with one part hemmed in a pocket off the Kerch Straits and the other retreating to a bridge-head south of the Don. Russians have landed near NOVOROSSISK on the Black Sea. The liberation of the UKRAINE is in progress. According to the latest news Soviet troops are hammering at the gates of ROSTOV and their vanguards have already captured a village east of the city. Columns of Germans are seen moving out of ROSTOV. ROSTOV may be evacuated without offering resistance.

Tripolitania.—The enemy has now been completely expelled from TRIPOLITANIA. The struggle for the last few miles of TRIPOLITANIA was one of artillery exchanges and infantry deployment in a water-logged land between the sea and the marshes. General Montgomery is concentrating tanks and motorised forces for a final assault. As the Axis forces are pressed back Allied air and naval forces are harrying the small Axis ships which attempt to dodge and bring supplies.

Tunisia.—An attempt of the U. S. forces to drive a way through to GABES was repulsed. The enemy also succeeded in forcing a withdrawal of the Allied forces from DJEBEL MANSOUR, an important height in Northern TUNISIA, near PONT DU FAHS. Allied troops, however continue to remain, in the vicinity in undiminished strength. There was patrol-activity in the PICHON-OSSELTIA area, French Forces occupied an important height in the region of the Kebir river.

The Solomons.—Early in the week, U. S. forces established a strong position at TITI in GUADALCANAR. On Feb. 7 and 8 they advanced on the Unasani river. News has now been received of the evacuation of the whole of GUADALCANAR island. All the enemy resistance here has ceased. In the last phases of the battle the Japanese—some 4,000 to 6,000 men—were driven into deep valleys, with the alternative of death or surrender.

This is the second decisive defeat for JAPAN, the first being in NEW GUINEA.

New Guinea.—Fighting was in progress over a wide area in the WANDEMI-MUBO area south-east of the WAU airfield. When the Japanese tried to raid this airfield 41 of their planes were shot down without the loss of a single Allied aircraft. RABAUL was raided for 7 nights in succession. A fierce dog-fight took place over the MUBO-WAU area. A 1,000 ton freighter was sunk in the Tula Sea.

China.—A new flare-up has occurred in the SINO-BURMA border. 3 THAI forces have been rushed in and large Japanese detachments are reported to be concentrated on the SHANTUNG, HONAN and KIANSUNG borders. A Chinese Communiqué speaks of a major battle raging on the YUNNAN—BURMA frontier in the TAMORLUNG area with a successful counter-attack on February 1 by the Chinese. In Eastern KWANGTUNG enemy toops at CHINHAI were repulsed. Japanese aircraft raided KWEILIN in KWANGSEI and a Japanese attack from CHENGYUH in SHANTUNG was thrown back.

Burma.—U.S. fighters attacked Japanese troops moving by trucks in Eastern BURMA in the vicinity of KUTKAI, WANGLING and KENGTUNG. On February 8, R. A. F. Blenheims attacked PAUKTAWGYI, near the Kaladin river. Offensive patrols were also carried out in other parts of BURMA and along the ARAKAN coast. On the same day enemy bombers attacked a place on the north-west ARAKAN border. The damage and the casualties were extremely slight.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

31—1—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT :—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA & MEDITERRANEAN.

The docks at BIZERTA.
The airfield at GABES.
Objectives at TUNIS.
The harbour installations at MESSINA (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap position at the CRYSTAL CREEK.
The airfield at KOEPANG (Timor).
MUNDA (N. Georgia).
Villages on the AKYAB Island (Burma).

1—2—43. (Monday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT :—

Shipping along the DUTCH and BELGIUM coasts.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy ships off the coast of TUNISIA.
The docks at BIZERTA.
A convoy off SICILY (1 vessel sunk).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern battlefield.

FAR EAST.

Jap airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain) and CAPE GLOUCESTER..
The airfield and township at FINSCHHAFEN (N. Guinea).
MUBO area in (N Guinea).

The dock area in RANGOON.
ANDAMAN Islands.
AKYAB Island.

2—2—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Railway yards at BRUGES and at ABBEVILLE (2 Axis planes destroyed).

NIGHT:—
Industrial objectives at COLOGNE.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

Shipping in the GABES area.
Railways in the SFAX area.
A tanker off South ITALY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The Vanakanau airfield at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Launches in OPEN BAY.
Barges off LOLABAU Island.
GASMATA (N. Britain).
Wharf area and supply dumps at KAI Island and KAUKENAU (Dutch N. Guinea).
RATHEDAUNG and 3 other villages in that area (Burma).
AKYAB Island.

3—2—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Objectives at ABBEVILLE.
Enemy airfield at OMAR.

NIGHT:—
The Naval base and U-boat building yards at HAMBURG (Germany).

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

Coastal shipping off TUNISIA.
The airfield at GABES.
The docks at BIZERTA.
Enemy vessels in harbour at MESSINA (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along entite Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Airfields at RABAUL, LAKUNAI, RAPOPO and GASMATA.
A runaway at CAPE GLOUCESTER.
Barracks at ARU Island.
SALAMAU and BUIN.
RATHEDAUNG.
Villages in the AKYAB area.

4—2—43 (Thursday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Targets in North-west GERMANY (Many planes shot down; 5 Allied planes missing).

NIGHT:—
The submarine base at LORIENT.
Targets in the RUHR.
The arsenal at TURIN (Italy).
The Italian Naval base of SPEZIA (Italy).

NORTH AFRICA & MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy shipping off the TUNISIAN coast.
The docks at BIZERTA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Eastern battlefield.

FAR EAST.

The RABAUL area (N. Britain).
The airfields at GASMATA and CAPE GLOUCESTER (N. Britain).
The airfield at BUIN (Solomons).
The aerodrome at LAE (N. Guinea).
MUBO-WAU area (N. Guinea).
Enemy-occupied village on MATKUS Island (Tenimber Islands).
The docks at RANGOON (Burma).
Enemy positions at RATHEDAUNG.
The airfield at MAGWE (Burma).
Railroad bridge at MYITGNE (Burma).

5—2—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Enemy shipping off the DUTCH coast.
Locomotives and goods trains in HOLLAND and FRANCE.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters (52 Axis planes shot down).

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

The harbour at PALERMO (Sicily).
Trains in SICILY.
The airfield at TUNIS.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the various sectors in the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap position at MUNDA (N. Georgia).
The airfields at LAE and SALAMAUA.
The docks at RABAUL (N. Britain).
GASMATA (N. Britain).
The Rail-road bridge at MYITGNE (Burma).
Communications between RANGOON and MANDALAY.
Railway targets at many places in Northern Burma including MEZA.

6—2—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Railway and other transport in Northern FRANCE and BELGIUM.
Coastal shipping off the FRENCH coast.

NIGHT:—
Targets in the RHINELAND.
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

The docks at BIZERTA.
Railway trains in SICILY.
Reconnaissance over the TUNISIAN battlefield.

RUSSIA.

(For the week 30-1-43 to 6-2-43 Axis planes losses 149; Allied planes losses 93.)
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at WAU (N. Guinea) (26 Jap planes shot down; 15 Jap planes damaged).
The airfields at BUKA and BUIN (Solomons).
RABAUL area (N. Britain).
An enemy freighter in OPEN BAY.
The airfields at LAE and MUBO area.
A freighter at FINSCHHAFEN (N. Guinea).
Jap occupied villages in the AKYAB area.
RATHEDAUNG area.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

BRITAIN.

1—2—43 (Monday).

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

The airfield at BONE.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).
American positions in the Western ALEUTIANS.

2—2—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

RUSSIA.

Air support to land armies in the DONETZ Basin.

FAR EAST.

Allied position in the MUBO area.

3—2—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

North-east coast of ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied position in South TUNISIA.

FAR EAST.

PORT MORESBY.

4—2—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

Coastal districts of South-east ENGLAND.
A place in East ANGLIA.

NORTH AFRICA.

Air combats over the forward position in TUNISIA.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over WIDE BAY (1 Jap plane shot down)

5—2—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied forward positions in the TUNISIAN battlefields.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).
The allied position in the MAYU river area (Burma).

6—2—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

The DJEBEL MANSOUR area.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR.

7—2—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

Forward units of the 8th Army in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions in the Southern Front.

FAR EAST.

Port DARWIN (Australia) (1 Jap plane shot down).

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE ENGLISH SCENE. There is no doubt that the CASABLANCA-ADANA-CAIRO meetings have brought about a great stir and new activities. 'The English scene', says Mr. Colin Wills, in a B. B. C. broadcast on Jan. 30, 'at this moment is full of movement and activity. The troops who stroll about the streets and drive around the country-lanes in battle-waggons are apt to disappear at any time and reappear in the news from some battle-field. The skies are noisy with a variety of English and American planes departing on sweeps and raids or returning from the smoking ruins.

'There has also been a certain amount of opposition noise lately to remind us that we are only a few moments' flying from German aerodromes and to raise speculations as to whether the Germans will start a new campaign of air raids against BRITAIN, either as a desperate bid to win or as a gesture of spite because they know they are losing.

'In Whitehall, too, there is movement. Ministers, secretaries, clerks and plenipotentiaries are as likely as the soldiery to vanish from these grey pavements and reappear in unexpected parts of the globe, and when they do, it is not to exchange a few diplomatic pleasantries or to set seals on a document, but to set in motion certain violent and noisy activities.

'The figure of Churchill has acquired the peculiar fascination of a phenomenon. One gazes at that solid form, complete, substantial and very definitely present and it appears to fade before one's eyes and melt into thin air. It is seen to go; it merely is not present any more. Then suddenly comes news and there, on some airfield or railway platform or walking in Whitehall, the solid Churchill reasserts itself.

'He has been away; he has arranged something; he has returned. He is not bound by limits of time and space any more than he is enclosed by restrictions of convention and precedent. Politically conservative, Churchill is mentally the least conservative statesman imaginable. A supreme exponent of rapid motion and direct action.'

Thus Churchill has now become the Man of Mystery, the exponent of rapid motion and rapider action. From LONDON he flies to CASABLANCA, to CAIRO, to ADANA, to CYPRUS, back to CAIRO, and after a halt at TRIPOLI to congratulate the victorious Imperial Armies and at ALGIERS to reconcile and to reorganise he comes back to LONDON—a picture of beaming geniality, very sun-burned, but also feeling very 'splendid'.

In the midst of war, he does not forget the arts of peace. While in North AFRICA he finds time amid the distractions of conferences, to visit MARRAKASH from which to see the snow-capped Atlas and sketch the wonderful scenery.

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NORTH AFRICAN CHANGES. The results of his activities are already apparent to some extent, though time alone will reveal them in full. The existing High Commissariat Administration in North AFRICA has been replaced by a Federal Government and Resident-General. Gen. Giraud whose watch-word is 'wage war first in all spheres -unite all energies-and then appease all political quarrels' has been appointed Military Commander-in-Chief of African FRANCE. The U. S. war zones in EUROPE and AFRICA which were hitherto single have been split into a European Theatre and a North African Theatre under the commands respectively of Gen. Andrews and Lt. Gen. Eisenhower. The latter will be in supreme command of the Tunisian operations, the British First Army being placed under him.

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A CHURCHILLIAN FORECAST. It was not for administrative re-shuffling only that Mr. Churchill went. Addressing the Eighth Army in TRIPOLI Mr. Churchill said 'you have altered the phase of the war in a most remarkable way. When I was with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff and the President of the UNITED STATES at CASABLANCA, the arrival of the Desert Army in TRIPOLI was a new factor which influenced the course of our discussions and opened up hopeful vistas for the future.

'Hard struggles lie ahead. Rommel, a fugitive from EGYPT and TRIPOLITANIA in a non-stop race of 1,400 miles is now trying to present himself as the deliverer of TUNISIA. Along the eastern coast of TUNISIA is a large number of German and Italian troops not yet equipped to their previous standard but growing stronger.

'On the other side another great operation planned in conjunction with your advance has carried the First Army and our American comrades and French Armies to within 30 or 40 miles of BIZERTA and TUNIS.

'The days of your victories are, by no means, at an end and with the forces which march from different quarters we may hope to achieve the final destruction or expulsion from the shores of AFRICA of every armed German or Italian.'

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THE ADANA REPERCUSSIONS. Mr. Churchill's visit to TURKEY has caused a great sensation in BERLIN. There is great flutter and Von Papen, the German Ambassador in TURKEY has been summoned to BERLIN to report.

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CYPRUS VISIT has been partly revealed in Mr. Churchill's reference to 'heroic GREECE' and in the more explicit comment of the *New York Times* which has written: 'Mr. Churchill's visit last week to CYPRUS emphasises the change that six months' war has wrought in Mediterranean islands. All the islands held by the Axis are feverishly building their *defences*. Those held by the Allies are building bridge-heads for *attack*. Powerful forces are now massed on CYPRUS. The Axis air power is ebbing. Allied islands in the Mediterranean are unsinkable aircraft-carriers from which an assault on southern EUROPE will be launched.'

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A SEDAN There is no doubt that STALINGRAD has proved a SEDAN and a TANNENBERG to the Germans. It is not without significance that the 10th anniversary of Hitler's accession to power coincided with the complete German surrender at STALINGRAD, and that Paulus fell a prisoner on the day of his advancement to Field-Marshalship. Russian figures of German losses before STALINGRAD may or may not be correct, but the annihilation of GERMANY'S famous 6th Army is now an accomplished fact and the release of 20 Russian divisions from STALINGRAD to bar the retreat of Hitler's legions in the Donetz and the CAUCASUS is now a certain factor for the Germans to face.

No wonder January 25 was described as a 'Black Monday' in German papers. No wonder Goebbels ordered a 3 days' mourning throughout GERMANY for the 'fall of STALINGRAD' and throughout February 4, under his orders, the German Radio carried out an endlesss programme of funeral

marches. The *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* has appealed for 'hearts of bronze', and a German-controlled Paris Wireless has blurted out, 'The Germans will fight the Bolshevist forces on the *Russian steppes* as well as in the *forest marshes of Poland*, on *the plains of Germany*, in the *Fields of France* and if necessary, in the *olive groves* of Spain.'

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AUSTERITY MEASURES. Dr. Goebbels has also announced that in order to secure total mobilisation all trade enterprises, not *essential* to the civil population, will cease. All catering establishments, restaurants, hotels, all places of amusement, night clubs, and bars will be closed. There will be a combing out of banking and insuring enterprises.

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STUNNED. The first effect of STALINGRAD on the Germans was that they were stunned. The visit of the British Mosquitos, the first day-light raid on BERLIN, and the CASABLANCA Complete-Surrender Conference added to the calamities. The B. B. C. broadcast a record in the following words of the confusion which the BERLIN microphone betrayed on the day of the lugubrious 10th Anniversary Meeting when the Mosquitos raided:—

'After 10 minutes of stirring music Marshal Goering was announced. Before the announcement was complete there was a sudden silence followed by a confusion of voices and shouting, after which it appeared that the programme was switched over to a studio. Records of martial music followed for a whole hour with four interruptions by an announcer who said that Goering's speech had been delayed and would be heard shortly. Five minutes before 5-30 p. m., (I. S. T.) he was again announced. The speech began promptly without any explanation for the delay and lasted for an hour and a half—there were none of the customary interruptions of applause, which suggests that the actual address may have been delivered from the safety of a studio'.

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AXIS LIES. GERMANY as usual is resorting to lying propaganda to hide her shame. The STALINGRAD debacle, due entirely to the obstinacy of one man, is described as a THERMOPYLAE, where the German army is supposed to have been outnumbered by 80 Russian divisions, nearly trebling the number. To cover the African defeat Rommel is said to have 'marched westward', 'evacuated' TRIPOLI 'tactfully' and 'sacrificed' LIBYA in order to bring 'reinforcements' into TUNISIA, forgetting that Rommel has largely left his forces behind, compelled to fly and is left only with a battered remnant, and that Montgomery is bringing much larger and better equipped reinforcements to the Allies in TUNISIA. Axis lying or rather misrepresentation goes further. The absence of Stalin and Chiang-Kai-Sheik, owing to military necessity is

ascribed to dissension, CASABLANCA conference is described as 'tall-talk', and Mr. Churchill's Turkish visit is a futile attempt at inveiglement. Giraud is supposed to be complaining that he has not received enough supplies, while as a matter of fact he has publicly thanked the Allies for the help already received.

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THE AIR RAIDS. The six raids of the last week on WILHELMSHAVEN, DUSSELDORF, LORIENT, EMDEN, HAMBURG, and COLOGNE represent a combined strategic attack on the German U-boat, following the dictum that offence is the best form of defence. Convoy escorts at sea no longer merely shepherd and defend the ships committed to their charge. They hunt for U-boats and destroy them. The R. A. F. and U. S. Eighth Air Force have added their weight to this offensive by attacking them where they are produced. The first American raid (Jan. 27) on German territory was against the naval base at WILHELMSHAVEN. DUSSELDORF attacked by the R. A. F. the same night is the home of the great Stahlwerk Krieger Steel Casting Works, the Phoenix factory. LORIENT is the principal U-boat base on the French Atlantic coast. EMDEN in addition to being a naval base has factories producing diesel engines, accumulators and other electrical equipment which are used in the nearby Nordseewerk U-boat construction yards. HAMBURG is a naval base which includes the building ships of the famous naval constructions. BLOHM and VOSS-COLOGNE contain Aumboldt diesel-engine factories with which the U-boats are propelled.

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TECHNICAL TRAINING. War has brought INDIA a new industrial life. Skilled labour, which was her main handicap, is being rapidly made good by technical training. In addition to the 'Bevin boys' trained in batches in ENGLAND, there is the National Service Labour Tribunal in INDIA itself, working in association with an Indian Board of Scientific Research for the training of youths in Indian centres. A Press Note recently issued on the subject shows that in this scheme MADRAS has the pride of place. At the end of November last, 34,455 candidates were being trained at 392 centres, MADRAS contributing the largest number. There is still place for 11,007 candidates.

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War Technical Training in Pudukkottai State. Two technical training centres have been opened at PUDUKKOTTAI, one at the P.W.D. Workshops and the other at the Rajah's College, with provision for a strength of 50, 30, 20, 20 and 15 boys for training respectively as fitters, electricians, blacksmiths, carpenters, and upholsterers. The Central Government has made an initial grant for equipment and appointed instructors. The Senior Regional Inspector at Bangalore is the adviser. Liaison has been established with the military authorities. After about four months' intensive training the trainees are tested by an external

Trade Testing Officer and passed trainees are absorbed in Military Units or in Civil Industry according to need. One batch of passed trainees has already been posted to various military units as far away as LAHORE, KATNI and JUBBULPORE. The Technical Recruiting Officer, R. I. N. has recruited some trainees for the R. I. N.

Training is given in electrical-wiring, running motors and generators, use of electrical metres, fitting, forging, welding, carpentry, tailoring and tent-making.

Particular care is taken about the trainees' health and recreation, for which a Welfare Officer, a hostel, free clothing and medical aid have been provided.

A generous stipend of Rs. 24 for non-matriculates and Rs. 29 for matriculates has been sanctioned.

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SMALL COINS. In a Press Note issued last week, the Pudukkottai Darbar point out that hoarding is the chief cause for the shortage, whether of small coins or food grains. While the absorption of small coins (excluding half-rupees) was Rs. 5 crores in 4 years during the last war, it went up to Rs. 8 crores in the first 2½ years in the present war and was as much as 3¼ crores in a single half-year (April—September, 1942). The present demand is abnormal, even after making allowances for the arrival of large military forces and increased economic activities. Hoarding is the only explanation—hoarding to sell later at a premium or by melting the pice for the metal.

As the Press Note points out, two-fold action is being taken to meet the evil.

New coins are manufactured as fast as the Government of India Mints can produce. In addition to large quantities in existence before the war and to 1,800 million pieces manufactured in the first 3 years of the war, 70 million pieces are now manufactured a month against 16 millions pieces a month before the the war.

In the State, remedial steps have been taken. Dealings in small coin at other than their face value or possession in excess of actual requirements are offences, punishable with fine or imprisonment or both. To facilitate speedy punishment, the offence has been made triable by summary procedure. To assist in the detection of offenders, substantial rewards under the Government Press Note are contemplated to persons whose information is useful in bringing offenders.

We print elsewhere the Government of India's Press Note in question and draw particular attention to the remark therein that in areas in which cases have already been detected successfully small coin has begun to circulate more freely. We appeal to the public, we warn the trading communities and we call on the buying public to show vigilance. It is essentially a province

where the war-worker, the members of the N. W. F. B and the leaders and sub-leaders in town and village may play a very useful part. It is up to them to advise, to warn, to rectify, and to set free the held-up coinage, and in necessary cases, to book the offenders. The evil is a great hardship in the every day marketing and in business transactions.

INTERIOR *Versus* EXTERIOR LINES.

THE SECOND FRONT.

(*London Times.*)

Few subjects of strategic theory have provided more material for discussion than that of "interior" against "exterior" lines in the conduct of war. The debate is concerned with the relative advantages and disadvantages possessed by a centrally placed force against divided forces which it may hope to defeat in detail, but which, by uniting or combining their attacks may succeed in destroying it. The extreme case is that of a nation at war with foes on either flank. There can in fact be no exact or universal answer to the question which is the more favourable position because this depends upon circumstances, the respective strength of the combatants, and especially the nature of the communications at the disposal of the centrally placed Power. It has generally been agreed that interior lines afford immense advantage to resolutely commanded forces served by good communications, particularly at the outset of a war, but that, if neither of the "exterior" opponents is put out of action, the balance may be turned, and turned decisively, by steady and unrelenting pressure from either flank.

In the last war their excellent railway system enabled the Germans to swing their effort east and west with great speed. They started by trying to crush France while holding off Russia. That failing, they turned in 1915 to a generally defensive strategy in the west and attacked Russia, dealing her heavy blows, but failing to drive her out of the war. Then the turn of the Western Front came again; but Verdun held and the Somme wore down the German strength. Next the process of knocking Russia out and bringing her to terms was completed. In this case one of the "exterior" opponents had in fact been put out of action, but from Germany's point of view just too late. Russia's heavy sacrifices had ruined her, but they had likewise contributed to the ruin of Germany. With American aid, the allies in the west succeeded in staving off disaster during the series of powerful German offensives from March to July, 1918, and when they turned to the counter-offensive the end quickly followed. In the same way Germany swung from one flank to the other in the present war, and at first with greater success. She eliminated Poland, then tnrned and eliminated France, but suffered her first serious check in the Battle of Britain. She then decided to crush Russia, as representing a powerful force in being which might become hostile, before attempting conclusions with the United Kingdom. The task seemed well within her power because

she had succeeded in depriving Britain of any footing upon the continent. She deliberately accepted the prospect of being bombed from the west without being able to return the blows, confident that she would have dealt with Russia before the effects had become serious and could then square the account.

German leaders, whatever the régime, have been sensible of the advantages of interior lines and have exploited them with effect. But they have also been deeply apprehensive of the danger of concentric thrusts, the terrible prospect of simultaneous major offensives on either flank—in a word, of "the second front." Their chief efforts, their most nicely calculated admixtures of force and guile, have been directed to the avoidance of such a peril. To the Nazis this is perhaps even more important than it was to the empire. The nation is now more highly strung and has indulged in more self-deception, so that the shock would be heavier. The Germans also have to face some disadvantages from the territorial extent of their control over the continent; nations held down with the machine-gun, the bayonet, the bludgeon, and the even more deadly weapon of under-nourishment, nevertheless remain potentially fierce and relentless foes should the tyrants find themselves hard pressed. Russia, by unparalleled efforts and endurance, succeeded by a narrow margin in upsetting HITLER'S calculations last year. There is a reasonably good prospect that she will do the same thing this year; and she is receiving valuable aid through allied convoys and allied air operations. Yet Russia alone cannot finally defeat Germany; nor can complete victory be won by bombing from the west added to Russia's effort. British and American land forces will be required to add their weight to the decisive blows, and that implies an extension of the present theatres of the war or at least great developments from some of those already existing.

At one moment last summer there appeared to be a serious danger that Russia would emerge from the campaign of 1942 seriously crippled, perhaps to such an extent that she could no longer maintain in the field in anything like their present numbers forces fully armed for modern warfare. That danger has been pushed farther away, mainly through her own exertions and resolution. But her eventual survival is likely to depend upon the extent and the speed in which her allies can increase their share of the common burden and diminish hers. The call for "the second front" may at times be uninformed and misleading and even mischievous. But it is ultimately based upon these two sound and essential notions: the necessity of widening the conflict in order to press Germany from new directions and to make use of the weapons which exterior lines place in the hands of those who hold them, and the necessity of shifting to other shoulders a proportion of the weight which is now being borne by Russia. Place and time are matters which it is idle to debate in the market-place. If the leaders and the councils of the allied nations failed to judge them aright, the result might be final defeat; and defeat can be brought about by temerity as well as by timidity. But strategy cannot be decided by ballot; for the factors on which it depends cannot be made public.

Generalization is thus inevitable, but a sound generalization steadily borne in mind and conditioning thought and action can be of good use. The zeal of the layman can supply the haft of the spear but not the head. The new allied offensive or offensives may take quite other forms and developments from those which have hitherto appealed to the popular imagination. The problem of deploying the powerful forces which are now mustering is admittedly one of extreme difficulty and dependent upon the handling of hard-worked navies and depleted shipping. The other action to which we are already committed—air offensive, aid in material enterprises growing in intensity against the enemy's western defences—will have to be maintained with all possible vigour meanwhile. But it is certain that before victory can be won Germany must be brought to battle on two fronts or more, and that German soldiers must be defeated in the field by British and American soldiers as they were in the year 1918.

ROSTOV "KEY TO THE CAUCASUS".

(*Major Philip Gribble*).

ROSTOV, the "key to the Caucasus" was occupied by the Germans on November 23, 1941.

By November 29, Timoshenko's armies had moved southwards from the Donetz and reoccupied the city. On the previous day, Don Cossacks entered the suburbs of Rostov from the south. Von Kleist's army was pursued to Taganrog and expelled from the Donetz basin.

By July 24, 1942, Rostov was again in German possession.

At first sight it appears remarkable that this key centre should have changed hands three times with no more than two or three days' local resistance. Has Rostov become the Russian Benghazi?

In November, 1941, the Germans took Rostov with relatively light forces, which were forced to withdraw under threat of subsequent encirclement. Last July it had been expected that Russian resistance in the Donetz basin covering the approaches to Rostov could be successfully maintained. But, as with the Germans in the previous autumn, the Russians, now under threat of encirclement owing to the enemy's rapid advance down in Moscow-Rostov railway south of Rossosh through Kantemirovka, Millerovo and Kamensk, in their turn withdrew.

Now the Russian threat to Rostov comes from the direction of the previous German threat down the railway through and around Kamensk, supplemented by a second thrust seven miles north of the confluence of the Donetz and the Don, where the Russians are striking westwards at Kransi Sulin, 35 miles north of Rostov on the Moscow-Rostov railway and 15 miles south of the last east-to-west railway.

If this point is reached, the only rail communication with Rostov remaining to the Germans would be from the west through Taganrog.

South of Rostov the situation of the Germans in the North Caucasus largely reproduces conditions under which the Russians were forced to withdraw from the Donetz-basin last summer.

Rostov is a well-protected bottleneck unassailable by the Russians except from the north and south. The Don delta protects it from the west. In the east on both sides of the Don as far as the junction of the Sal, marshlands stretch in two strips four to eight miles wide. There is no road parallel to the Don to the south of the river. The railway from the Salsk and Tikhoretsk outlines the southern approaches.

It seems proable that Timoshenko's successful offensive in November 1941, may soon be imitated—*News Chronicle.*

ANGLO-TURKISH FRIENDSHIP.

F. R. Atay in the "Ulus".

(*Mr. Atay is the leader of the Delegation of Turkish Journalists now in India.*)

The third anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Turkish Treatry of Alliance gave occasion to cordial demonstrations in the Turkish and British Press and Radios. When one looks back on the three-year old history of this alliance, its basic quality cannot escape the eye : the British and the Turks have used this alliance not as an instrument to spread and to intensify the tragedy of war, but as a means of saving further peoples and countries from suffering and destruction. We are certain that there no longer is a single Englishman or Turk endowed with enough commonsense who still discusses whether it would be better for Turkey to enter or to remain outside the war.

2. When the British and the Turks signed this Treaty of Alliance, the directing principle of their foreign policy was the preservation of peace. The two presidents whom Turkey has had at her head since the Treaty of Lausanne have each in turn repeatedly emphasized in every speech that the Turkish people have no other aim than to further the cause of their independence and of their industrial and economic rehabilitation and prosperity. From the foundation of the New Turkey to September 1939, our desire to safeguard peace and to avert war by reciprocal agreements and treaties has dominated both our national and international policy. Nor have the British Government ever clandestinely or overtly approached us with a view to making us their accomplices in any war of aggression.

3. The desire for defence does not confer immunity from aggression. It is necessary also to take military, and political measures of protection, and to exchange guarantees with neighbouring and other concerned countries within

the bound of common danger and interests. We neither desired the outbreak of the Second World War, nor had we anything to gain by it. We neither wish to intervene in it, nor do we perceive any gain for ourselves, in such an intervention. Those who believed that her alliance with Britain would drag Turkey into the war were those who doubted the sincerity of Turkey's claim that she had no territorial desires or demands, and who were under the delusion that once Turkey became involved in the War, Britain would be pleased to see the immediate spreading of the war to the British spheres of security in the Near and Middle East.

4. The relations between the British Empire and the Ottoman Sultanate passed through contrasting phases. In some cases, the British Empire fought side by side with the Ottoman armies because the territorial integrity of the Sultanate was of vital importance for Britain. In other cases, exactly the opposite happened. But ever since the British Empire saw no need to fear a free, national and strong Turkey which had established herself on the 100 per cent Turkish territories of Thrace and Anatolia, no cause remained to disturb or cloud the friendship and faith between the two countries. Furthermore, it is impossible that Turkey should have but friendship for those who consider a free, and independent Turkey necessary for world order and who have no designs on her rights.

5. We are a people frank of speech and soul. We have a very old history, full of honourable memories, and a traditional nobility of ethics. Those who have faith in us will never have cause to regret it. Nor does Turkey doubt the sincerity of the word given by those countries which, relying on Turkish uprightness and gentlemanliness, have extended to us their hands.

6. It is our hope that the Anglo-Turkish alliance now entering upon its fourth year will continue to be as beneficial as before.

OCCUPIED EUROPE.

M. Fernand Gernier, a Communist deputy of the Paris area, who escaped to Britain a few days ago, gave an interesting review of the conditions in France, and of the struggle that is being waged against the Nazis and French collaborators. In France no one thought of parties, he said, and the supreme object was to rid the country of its cruel invader. The underground movement was the "advance guard of the French Armies fighting in North Africa." One hundred thousand persons had been shot, and forty to fifty thousand were in prison "but they carry on the struggle to prove that French courage and heroism are not things of the past." M. Gernier has come to London with the official mission of bringing the unqualified support of the French Communist Party to Gen. de Gaulle.

While Laval is busy setting up a *Falange Africaine* "to fight in and outside Europe", and has invited the German man-power chief, Sauckel, to speed up the flow of French skilled workers to Germany, the French patriots are showing in no uncertain terms what they think of the Vichy collaborators. Five hundred arrests are reported from Paris, and a hundred from Lyons, for alleged "illegal activities." A state of siege exists in Lyons where the Municipal Council has been removed for its failure "to cope with the present situation, the members failing completely in the execution of their duties."

BALKANS AND THE NAZIS.

The Nazi satellite States in the Balkans are becoming increasingly reliable barometers of German fortunes in the war. The Iron Guard and the National Peasant Party in Rumania, sinking their past differences, have united in demanding the immediate withdrawal of Rumanian soldiers from Russia. There is a general anti-German unrest in the country, and the people feel that the army should be preserved for wresting Transylvania from Hungary rather than be employed for securing "Trandniestria" (Russian territory around the Dniester). Russian victories have, moreover, made the people wonder whether Germany will ever be in a position to guarantee "Trandniestria" to Rumania. Thousands of Rumanian democrats have been arrested by Antonescu to crush opposition to his pro-Nazi policy. With the aid of the German Gestapo he has formed a "security corps" to check anti-Nazi activity in the country.

In Hungary too, the destruction of the army on the Russian front has led to a widespread hostility against the pro-Nazi government. Seventy-three people have been arrested in Budapest on a charge of "intending to seize power." Here the Gestapo has started a black-mailing campaign against the Government lest it knuckle under the popular demand for calling off the war against Russia. The Nazi *Arrow Cross* party has been revived in order to help or coerce (as the case might be) the Horthy régime.

The report that King Boris has agreed to a personal demand from Hitler for an army of 250,000 for the Russian Front, if true, shows the Fuehrer's desperate plight. It must be very bitter necessity that drives Hitler to make this demand on Bulgaria, which is so far technically at peace with the Soviets, and whose people's sympathies with Russia are so well-known. King Boris will, however, have to think twice before he commits his country to war with the Soviet Union.

HITLER'S RAILWAYS.

The other main objective of the R. A. F.'s Winter Offensive 1942/43 is the destruction of Hitler's transport facilities. Hitler himself has referred to the fact that there have been days in Russia when everything depended on

keeping open a single transport route or even on the journey of a single train. It is reported that Von Runstedt estimates the number of locomotives required to meet an Allied invasion of Western Europe at no less than 3,500.

Now we know why both Bomber and Fighter Commands have recently been engaged on a continuous locomotive hunt over France, Belgium, Holland and N. W. Germany. In the past nine months one fighter group of the R. A. F. has shot up more than 400 railway engines. In a period of six weeks one squadron alone destroyed or damaged at least 60 engines. During November 1942 British fighters carried out more than 80 successful attacks on trains and marshalling yards in France and the Low Countries. The offensive has continued throughout December and January, railway targets figuring almost daily in Air Ministry *communiqés.* Traffic diverted from railways to inland waterways has been simultaneously attacked.

The British air offensive over Europe has grown steadily since the German march to the west in May 1940. This growth is reflected in the figures of R. A. F. losses. Offensive operations up to the end 1941 cost our home-based squadrons a total of **1,875** aircraft—1,242 bombers and 633 fighters. Similar operations in 1942 cost a total of **1,930** aircraft—1,337 bombers and 593 fighters. So, the R. A. F. has expended more aircraft on offensive operations over Europe in the past 12 months than in the first 28 months of the war.

TWO-WAY LEND-LEASE.

Mr. Edward Stettinius, American Lend-Lease Administrator, has submitted a report to the President covering the operation of the Lend-Lease Act from March 1941 to December 1942. He pointed out that the Act was not a loan of money, it was undertaken for the defence of the country. Only by that means could the forces of the United Nations, including the U. S. A., have arms in quantities necessary for victory. The United Nations depended on each other, the United States itself relied upon its partners for many strategic raw-materials. However, not only as an arsenal must the United Nations be considered but also as a granary for those starving European countries which may at any time be in need of assistance. "The basic strategy," Mr. Stettinius went on, "is to combine all our material and man-power resources in such a way as will achieve the maximum possible impact upon the enemy in the shortest possible time."

In addition to supplying her Allies, America herself had received much aid. In the North African campaign alone Britain had provided two-thirds of the warships and transports for the original landing, while the U. S. air forces had received 160 Spitfires, 130 reconnaissance boats and more than 50,000 anti-tank mines and grenades. Britain had also lend-leased to Russia

over 2,600 tanks and 2,000 planes. Mr. Stettinius added, that the lend-lease countries had previously paid in cash for more supplies than they had since received from the United States under the Lend-Lease Act, itself.

THE LIQUIDATION OF AN ERSATZ EMPIRE.

Tripoli the last bulwark of Mussolini's Empire has fallen. The fat and retired exhibitionist dreamt of a new Roman Empire, the tawdry dream of a prosperous racketeer, Luxurious apartments, plenty of columns with statues—of himself—and great triumphal arches—this dream has dissolved like Prospero's much pleasanter pageant though some wracks have been left behind—a ruined, impoverished and disillusioned people.

Yet it was a pretty piece of empire while it lasted. But it was ersatz all right. All part of the compensation of a vain and vulgar man, half-educated and revengeful, who felt that life had cheated him, a lackey who played the emperor, until Hitler came and made him carry out his orders. "To me violence is perfectly moral—more moral than compromise or bargaining" said the sawdust Caesar once. He little knew that in 1943 he would have to witness the liquidation of his ersatz empire founded on deeds of violence and treachery.

MOSQUITO BOMBERS.

Bomber Command's twin-engined Mosquitos—the world's fastest bombers—have caught the imagination of the public. Their first target was the Gestapo head-quarters in Oslo. On Saturday, the tenth anniversary of Hitler's rise to power, their special assignment was the centre of Berlin.

The Mosquito, with beautiful lines, is remarkable because it is made chiefly of wood. With a crew of two, it is powered by Rolls Royce engines and a three-bladed hydromatic-type propeller. Both undercarriage and tail wheels are retractable. It carries a formidable bomb-load and armament of four 20-millimetre cannon and four ·303 machine-guns. An aircraft of very great speed, it has a long range and is very accurate in low-level bombing.

Mosquitos may herald concentrated daylight raids on Germany's vital centres of production, for they are less vulnerable than any other bomber in use.

A CONTRAST.

The difference between a civilised and an uncivilised race is nowhere more clearly seen than in the Chinese and Japanese approaches to other peoples and racial groups. The Chinese were content to leave others to assimilate their culture without coercing it upon them. They were conscious of the splendour and antiquity of their own civilisation and they assumed that other peoples would be glad to emulate them, but they seldom, if ever, tried to extend this civilisation by aggrandisement and war. Their character has not essentially changed. They have proved themselves willing and able to fight and win victories in defence of their country, but they are primarily interested in reconstructing their country for peace and in building up a new agricultural, educational and industrial system. Before the outbreak of the present war they did not concentrate, like the Japanese and Germans, on piling up stores of armaments, but learnt from the scientific and medical and educational experience of western nations how to improve conditions of life among their own people. The Japanese, on the other hand, have proclaimed their intention of coercing the whole of East Asia into accepting their version of the 'New Order'. They have imposed the 'blessings of imperial rule' upon one race after another that has been too weak to resist them. Resistance to their divine mission is in their eyes a crime. **Peoples who have been compelled to join their 'Co-prosperity Sphere' find that they have nothing to hope for from their conquerors but oppression and exploitation.** Wisdom seldom prevails at first when attacked by blind violence, but violence defeats its own ends. There will be a great Chinese civilisation when the Japanese Empire is a memory.

CHINA FRONT.

There have been reports of a Japanese advance into Yunnan from the Kengtung area in the Southern Shan States. There is a possible line of advance to Kunming through Puer in South-west Yunnan and although it is in itself an indifferent route, it might be used for a diversion to draw troops from the defence of the other two lines of advance, the Burma road through Lungling and the earthwork of the projected railway through Kunlong. The present operation may on the other hand be prompted only by Thai desire to extend their influence in Southern Yunnan and Japanese desire to keep the Thai army employed and out of mischief. The latter reason is probably the correct one and all indications point to the present offensive being a limited one conducted by Thai troops only.

BURMA.

There is little evidence of the Japanese putting any capital as yet into Burma's reconstruction and recent Rangoon broadcasts have discussed the costliness of reconstruction in an apologetic manner. Burma is one of Japan's more distant and immediately precarious conquests and it is reasonable to suppose the Japanese are using their limited supplies of capital, administrators, and technicians in territories closer to Japan.

Japan's constructive energy in Burma is directed not to repairing the damage caused by her invasion, but to pushing through the strategic road from Burma to Thailand. The Japanese troops did without this road when invading Burma, but the tracks which they used form a precarious supply line if their command of the sea is disputed.

THE LOGIC OF LUNACY.

(*Chicago Daily News*).

For logical lunacy, we must commend the Quisling government of Norway which, according to a Stockholm dispatch, has cut off all government subsidies to insane asylums. A lunatic government would be crazy to subsidize competing institutions. There is plenty of room for all the nuts in the Nazi government itself, and as the goal of its policy is One Big Bughouse, why trifle with little ones ?

AMENITIES FOR TROOPS.

It is now nine months since the troops came to Madras, since the question of providing amenities for them ceased to be one of shipping gifts overseas, and became a question of what could be done for men living close by. This question has arisen all over the Province, and not merely in the City of Madras; canteens are wanted in places where troops are stationed, hospitality is needed where men go on leave, warm clothes are wanted where they arrive shivering in the hills, having never realised that India could be cold; in all this our help is badly wanted and is being given. Individuals everywhere are tackling the job in their own place. But there is bound to be a good deal of wasted effort if each little group works in isolation, relying on its own resources only, and this is where the Joint War Charities Depôt is organised to help.

In the first place there is the Canteen Stores Department. This began last May as an experiment in buying for a single Squadron of the Royal Air Force which complained that it was absolutely unable to find a contractor

who did not charge about 200% profit on everything: they set up their own Canteen and we stocked it for them. Since then one unit after another has asked to come into the scheme, until it has grown to a size far beyond anything we could ever have expected, and we take 600,000 cigarettes regularly every week and 23 cases of soap. Our range of stock has grown too, from the original cigarettes and soap, to the inevitable razor blades, to darning materials, bootlaces, prickly-heat powder, sweets, writing materials, shirts, vests, pants and towels and much besides. The U. P. A. S. I. has most generously arranged a monthly supply of tea, which is distributed free among all the canteens which apply to us, both those which the units run for themselves and those which are run for their benefit by civilians. It is obviously better to have a Central Supply stores of this kind than for every canteen to do its own buying in the open market; we can buy wholesale and get special rates, which we pass on as we get them, charging no profit or overheads. Our workers are all voluntary and our overheads are paid by the Government of Madras. Any Canteen working for the benefit of the troops in any place in the Province of Madras is most welcome to apply to the Joint War Charities Depót, Government House, with particulars of what is being done and what assistance is required.

There are places where there are no troops and no canteen or other amenities to be provided. Even here much may be done to lend a hand in this amenities work. These men are, many of them, only recently out from home; most of them, came at the beginning of the hot weather, a bad moment to start life in India under camp conditions, and they have had a hard time. The work which is being done for them here is financed by the Amenities for Troops Fund, a branch of the Governor's War Fund. Nobody can afford very much these days, but steady support for this Fund is badly wanted. One place has organised an "Anna a Week" fund, which is just the sort of thing we need. Some of us can manage more than an anna, but it is that steady flow of help which can be organised by people in places which have no immediate contact with the troops. They cannot run a canteen themselves, but they can make it possible for money and assistance in kind to be provided for the people who are running them, and that comes to much the same thing. One donation is a good thing, but a steady weekly or monthly gift is much better.

SMALL COINS.

PRESS NOTE.

(Government of India).

One of the main causes of the present shortage of small coin is undoubtedly the hoarding by certain persons of amounts in excess of their normal requirements not infrequently in the hope of selling subsequently at a profit. This view is amply supported by the fact that in areas in which cases have

already been detected and successful prosecutions have followed small coin has at once begun to circulate more freely.

Both the acquiring of coin in excess of personal or business requirements and the selling or exchanging of coin or notes for amounts other than face value are offences under rule 90 (2) of the Defence of India Rules. By notifications published to-day in the Gazette of India these and certain other offences under the same rule have been made triable by summary procedure in order to facilitate the speedy punishment of offenders.

2. To assist in the detection of offenders substantial rewards will be granted to all persons on whose information convictions for any of these offences are secured.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXXXIII. (*Batch 4.*)

13- 2-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.
14- 2-43	Nirpalani ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Avoor ...	7.30 ,,
15- 2-43	Karaiyur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Idaiyathur ...	7.30 ,,
16- 2-43	Vadavalam ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Sammattividuthi	7.30 ,,
17- 2-43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
17- 2-43	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
,,	College A English	10.15 ,,
,,	College B Tamil.	10.15 ,,
,,	Nartamalai ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Uppiliakkudi ...	7.30 ,,
18- 2-43	Andakkulam ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Killanur ...	7.30 ,,
19 -2-43	Konnaiyur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Melaveguppatti.	7.30 ,,

LECTURE CXXXIV. (*Batch 5*)

20- 2-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.
21- 2-43	Tiruvarangulam.	7.00 ,,
,,	Vamban ...	7.30 ,,
22- 2-43	Tirumayyam ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Melur ...	7.30 ,,
23- 2-43	Pallivasal ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Pillamangalam...	7.30 ,,
24- 2-43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
24- 2-43	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
,,	College A English	10.15 ,,
,,	College B Tamil.	10.15 ,,
,,	P. Puduppatti ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Vendampatti ...	7.30 ,,
25- 2-43	Vellanur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Sembattur ...	7.30 ,,
26- 2-43	Puliyur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Kannangudi ...	7.30 ,,

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

13— 2—43	Ponnamaravathi.
14— 2—43	Kodumbalur.
15— 2—43	Kiranur.
16— 2—43	Kudimiyamalai.
17— 2—43	Karambakkudi.
18— 2—43	Kilanilai.
19— 2—43	Pudukkottai.
20— 2—43	Tirumayyam.
21— 2—43	Virachchilai.
22— 2—43	Viralimalai.
23— 2—43	Vadakadu.
24— 2—43	Kilanilai Puduppatti.
25— 2—43	Alangudi.
26— 2—43	Pudukkottai.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 750—13-2-43.